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Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 FRB-03 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 /069 W
----------071934Z 106196 /43
R 071603Z JAN 77
FM US MISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2714
INFO ALL EC CAPS 2950
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
US MISSION GENEVA 7200

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 0162

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT ELAB
SUBJECT: COMMUNIST LABOR INITIATIVES

REFS: (A) EC BRUSSELS 11609, (B) EC BRUSSELS 11428

1. FOLLOWING UP ON A DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS' (ICFTU) EXECUTIVE BOARD IN NOVEMBER, OTTO KERSTEN, ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY, HAS FORMALLY WARNED AFFILIATED NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ABOUT COMMUNIT INITIATIVES NOW UNDER WAY IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERNATIONAL LABOR FIELD.

2. THE TWO KEY PARAGRPHS IN KERSTEN'S LETTER ARE THESE:

3. BEGIN QUOTE: IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY INITIATIVE LIABLE TO WEAKEN THE ICFTU AND THE FREE TRADE UNION

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MOVEMENT IN GENERAL, WE CONSIDER THAT IT WOULD BE
ADVISABLE TO DISCOURAGE AS FAR AS POSSIBLE APPROACHES
FOR BILATERAL CONTACTS AND EXCHANGES OF DELEGATIONS
WHEN CONGRESSES ARE HELD, MADE BY THE NATIONAL CENTRES
OF COUNTRIES WHERE THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IS STRICTLY
BOUND TO BE SINGLE PARTY SYSTEM AND TO THE GOVERNMENT,
ENJOYING ONLY AN EXTREMELY LIMITED FREEDOM OF ACTION
AND THEREBY IN CONFLICT WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS
ON TRADE UNION FREEDOMS AND RIGHTS.

4. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MOREOVER REQUESTS ICFTU
AFFILIATES TO ABIDE BY THE DECISIONS TAKEN CONCERNING
MULTIANATIONAL MEETINGS WITH THE SAME NATIONAL CENTERS.
THESE MEETINGS (CONFERENCES, SEMINRS, SYMPOSIA, ETC.))
MUST BE CONSIDERED AS BEING CONTRARY TO THE INTERESTS
OF THE FREE DTRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN GENERAL. THE
DOCUMENT ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MOREOVER
INDICATES THE MOST PROMINENT INITIATIVES AIMING AT
WEAKENING THE INTERNATIONAL FREE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT
THROUGH THE CREATION OF NEW TRADE UNION STRUCTURES
AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL. MULTINATIONAL CONTACTS
SHOULD OCCUR SOLELY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE
SPECIFIDC ACTIVITIES OF THE ILO. END QUOTE.

5. ALTHOUGH THE LETTER ITSELF DOES NOT USE THE WORD
"COMMUNISTS," THE DOCUMENT IN ENCLOSES, A SIX-PAGE
RESOLUTION APPROVED BY THE ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD,
MAKES CLEAR THAT THE MAIN CONCERN IS WITH
MEETINGS AND ORGANIZATIONS PROMOTED BY THE COMMUNIST-
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DOMINATED WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU).

6. COPIES OF THE LETTER AND OF THE RESOLUTIION (STILL
BEARING THE ICFTU MARKING "CONFIDENTIAL--NOT FOR
PUBLICATION") ARE BEING POUCHED TO S/IL AND TO LABOR
OFFICERS OF INFORMATION ADDRESSEES.

7. ACCORDING TO AN ICFTU SOURCE FROM WHOM WE OBTAINED
THESE DOCUMENTS, ANOTHER CIRCULAR LETTER ON THE SAME
SUBJECT IS IN THE WORKS. THAT LETTER, WE UNDERSTAND,
WILL DEAL SPECIFICALLY WITH A MEETING TO
BE HELD IN GENEVA IN MARCH UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF
FOUR WORKER MEMBERS OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY. THE
ICFTU IS DOWN-PLAYING THAT MEETING AS A TECHNICAL
SESSION ON HEALTH AND SAFETY, BUT THE WFTU IS HAILING
IT AS THE SECOND PAN-EUROPEAN LABOR CONFERENCE, SINCE
REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL WFTU AFFILIATES AND ALMOST
ALL ICFTU AFFILIALES IN EUROPE ARE SCHEDULED TO ATTEND.
THE ICFTU'S OBJECTIVE, WE ARE TOLD, IS TO PERSUADEAFFILIALES TO

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AVOID MAKING A COMMITMENT FOR ANOTHER MEETING THA COULD BE
BILLED AS A "PAN-EUROPEAN CONFERENCE."HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ECBRU00162
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770007-0618
Format: TEL
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770173/aaaaclgv.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 829b30dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SIL
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 EC BRUSSELS 11609, 77 EC BRUSSELS 11428
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3647013
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMUNIST LABOR INITIATIVES
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, XX, ICFTU, (KERSTN, OTTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/829b30dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
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